

# Province of British Columbia

**2010/11 STRATEGIC PLAN  
ANNUAL REPORT**

JUNE 2011 | [www.gov.bcc.ca](http://www.gov.bcc.ca)



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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## GOVERNMENT'S CORE VALUES ARE

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- **Integrity:** to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair, transparent and balanced;
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** to implement affordable public policies;
- **Accountability:** to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and the credibility of government;
- **Respect:** to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully; and
- **Choice:** to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination.

# Letter From The Premier

**BRITISH COLUMBIANS ARE BLESSED BY NATURAL SPLENDOUR** and a wealth of economic resources. We have made great progress over the last decade in building on that natural advantage to create jobs and opportunities for B.C. families. Now it is time for our government to reach out to those families for whom the promise of British Columbia remains elusive.

To do that, government is focusing on three priorities that are important to all British Columbians: families, jobs and open government.

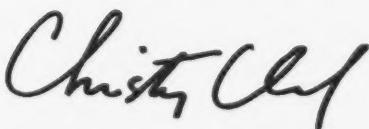
Families will be at the forefront of all decisions government makes. We will build on the strong foundation of low taxes and economic opportunity with new programs and investments that lift up families that may feel they are falling behind.

Already we have taken significant steps over the past few months, including increasing the minimum wage to \$10.25 by 2012, making parking free in all B.C. Parks, and investing \$15 million in new funding for gaming grants that support youth organizations, family centres, and other non-profits. We will continue to build on these steps in the months ahead.

British Columbia is home to abundant natural resources, a skilled workforce and cutting-edge innovation. Our Government will work to harness those advantages to create jobs across the province. Good jobs are the bedrock of strong families and strong communities and this government is focused on building an economy that works for all citizens and provides for families. The new Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation will bring new focus to creating conditions that foster growth in green jobs, resource sector jobs, service sector jobs and jobs in the trades.

We are also working to ensure citizens have the opportunity to be more engaged with their government. I've personally hosted open town halls in numerous communities around the province, and the largest listening exercise in B.C. history—the HST talking taxes telephone-town hall meetings—engaged over 275,000 British Columbians. Open government means talking about our problems and setting our priorities openly and we will continue to work with citizens to find solutions and explain decisions.

This is an exciting time of renewal and change for B.C. Together we will work to build the British Columbia we all know is possible.



Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia

# Focus on Jobs

**STABLE EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ARE FUNDAMENTAL** to strong families.

This government is working hard to maintain strength in our economy to ensure there are jobs to support B.C. families and communities.

British Columbia appears to be heading out of the worst of the economic downturn. In fact, the economic expansion in China has provided new opportunities to our economy, as our resource firms take advantage of the increased demand in Asia to replace the declining demand from the United States.

As well, the Province continued to create jobs through the accelerated infrastructure projects program. A total of \$55 billion in accelerated projects have been completed or are underway, creating approximately 35,000 jobs critical to the province's economic recovery. Accelerated infrastructure investments contribute to government's key priorities in the areas of post secondary education, housing, B.C.'s communities, transportation, and K-12 education.



## Our Natural Advantages

British Columbia's abundance of natural resource wealth, and our skills in finding and developing new markets and opportunities to take advantage of those resources in a responsible, sustainable way has been critical to our avoidance of much of the catastrophic impact of the global downturn experienced by so many other jurisdictions.

The B.C. forest sector experienced the beginning of a recovery in 2010—with over 25 mills re-opening. Markets for B.C. forest products are expanding, and the export market structure has changed dramatically over the past few years. The U.S. continues to be B.C.'s largest forest product export market with \$4.1 billion of total forest product export value in 2010. However, as the world's most populous nation and with a fast-growing economy, China represents a growing market for B.C. wood products.

In 2010, exports to China totalled \$2.2 billion, up 76 per cent from 2009, and lumber exports to China were 4.56 million cubic metres—more than 12 times the exports since first opening an office in China in 2003. Exports were increasing in other markets, including exports to Japan which totalled \$1.1 billion, up 22 per cent from 2009, and exports to other destinations totalled \$263 million, up 20 per cent from 2009.

Mineral exploration activity in B.C. reached \$322 million in 2010. This was the third-highest total for exploration spending in the past 20 years and a 109 per cent increase over 2009. The Ministry of Energy and Mines is responsible for the permitting and inspecting of major mining projects and works to increase investment in B.C.'s mining sector, both in total, and relative to other jurisdictions in Canada. Mining provides well-paying jobs in communities across the province and is a vibrant and growing part of the economy.



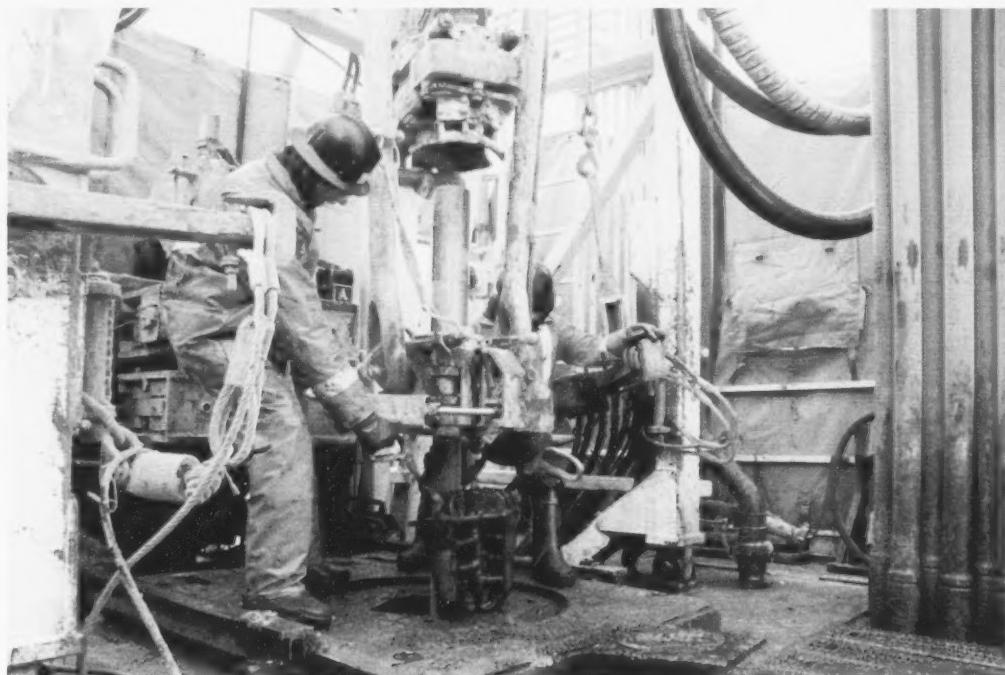
As the economy continues to recover in 2011, we are confident mining will play a vital role in the province's prosperity.

The government's Oil and Gas Stimulus Package also helped us make it through challenging economic times and the sector remains essential to the province's continued economic well-being. As a result, the 2010/11 fiscal year was strong for B.C. petroleum and natural gas rights sales, reaching \$817 million despite the challenge of relatively low natural gas prices. These vital revenues support a full range of government programs, from social services to health care and education.

In 2010/11, the Environmental Assessment Office continued its work assessing proposed major developments for their potential adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health effects. The Environmental Assessment Office managed environmental assessments of 76 proposed major developments in 2010/11. Of these, six assessments were completed, representing a total potential capital investment of \$4.3 billion.

The Province is also working on creating greater economic certainty and opportunities through innovations in partnerships with British Columbia's indigenous peoples. The government introduced a new area-based woodland licence specifically designed for First Nations, and can include private and reserve land. The new woodland licence is only available to First Nations that have an interim measures agreement with government, and provides exclusive right to harvest timber on Crown land, the right to harvest, manage and charge fees for botanical forest products, practice Aboriginal stewardship and protect traditional use practices.

As the economy rebounds and with commodity prices predicted to remain robust, we can look forward to a bright future. More than half of Canada's exploration and mining companies are based in the province, which has one of the most competitive tax and regulatory systems around.



## Our Regional Advantages

Constructive partnerships with First Nations in B.C. are critical for resource-based economic development in every region of British Columbia. In 2010 the Province signed a \$1.26 million strategic agreement with the Tsilqot'in National Government to formalize a single window for referrals on natural resource applications within the traditional territories of the five Tsilqot'in National Government member communities. This new process is expected to result in a more co-operative form of decision-making and lead to increased certainty for resource activities in that region.

Innovative agreements on the management of natural resources are growing in importance. In August 2010, two agreements to share mineral tax revenues from new mine developments and incremental revenues from mine expansions were signed: one agreement with the McLeod Lake Indian Band for the Mt Milligan Mine and the other with the Stik'emlupscemc of the Secwepemc Nation for the New Afton Mine. Revenue-sharing discussions have been initiated for expansions at Highland Valley Copper and Endako mines, and negotiations are underway with respect to the Elk Valley coal mines.

The New Afton Mine near Kamloops is scheduled to open in 2012. It is expected to employ 250 people over a 12-year mine life, with a capital cost of \$630 million. The Mt. Milligan Mine north of Prince George is scheduled to open in 2013. It is expected to employ 400 employees over a 22-year mine life, with a capital cost of \$1.265 billion.

As well, we introduced the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act*, officially restoring the name Haida Gwaii to what formerly were known as the Queen Charlotte Islands, and acknowledging the uniqueness of Haida Gwaii and the Haida Nation.



*Chief Robert Hope of the Yale First Nation, along with Minister Mary Polak; Premier Christy Clark; BC Treaty Commission Chair Sophie Pierre, and Minister Barry Penner at the signing of the Yale First Nation Final Agreement.*

Yale government may make laws respecting forest resources and practices on their land. The parties are working together to fully ratify the treaty in 2011.

Progress continues to be achieved with other First Nations as well. On March 26, 2011 the K'omoks First Nation voted in favour of ratifying an Agreement in Principle that provides approximately 2,000 hectares of land, and a capital transfer of approximately \$17.5 million dollars. The agreement also provides ownership of forest resources on treaty lands, as

It was a historic year for the Yale First Nations as they approved their constitution on November 20, 2010. The Yale First Nation Final Agreement provides a capital transfer of \$10.7 million, economic development funding of \$2.2 million dollars and includes approximately 1,966 hectares of provincial Crown land and former Indian reserve lands. This includes ownership of all forest resources and sub-surface resources on or under Yale First Nation land.

As a treaty First Nation, the

well as access to timber on provincial Crown lands for cultural purposes (i.e., building canoes, totem poles or longhouses). The parties are working together to negotiate a Final Agreement.

We have been building on existing relationships across Canada as well. In 2010, the B.C. government, together with the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan launched the New West Partnership that creates Canada's largest interprovincial barrier-free trade and investment market.



### PACIFIC GATEWAY

The US market is no longer the engine of growth it once was. Therefore, British Columbia looked west to take advantage of emerging opportunities in Asia. Growth in the Asia-Pacific region rebounded in 2010. Japan experienced growth of nearly 5 per cent in the first quarter and is expected to average 2.4 per cent for the year.

Government and industry partners are working together to make British Columbia the preferred gateway for Asia-Pacific trade. In November 2010, the Government led a successful mission to Asia that helped expand the province's customer base and promote our natural geographic advantage and exceptional infrastructure. To date, public and private sectors have committed almost \$22 billion to projects in support of the Pacific Gateway.

Major inroads were also made last year in opening Asian markets to B.C. agri-food and seafood exports. China agreed to expedite the work required to reopen its borders to Canadian beef and also committed to begin the final inspections necessary to enable imports of B.C. blueberries and cherries.

Other international priorities in the Asia-Pacific region resulted in a visit by the Governor of Gyeonggi (Korea), the most populous province of South Korea.

## Our Competitive Advantages

British Columbia is well-positioned to come through the economic recovery as a national leader in responsible, sustainable growth. But this comes with a challenge—human resources.

By 2019, B.C. will have about 1.1 million available job vacancies. Employment is projected to increase by an average of 1.8 per cent per year, creating 450,000 new jobs by 2019 with another 676,000 jobs opened up through retirements. The challenge is that there are only 650,000 young people in our education system. Our economic growth, when combined with an aging population, means that B.C. will have more available jobs than skilled workers to fill them.

Immigration is critical to the province's economic growth, and will account for most of British Columbia's net population growth within the next two decades. British Columbia receives the third-largest share of immigrants in Canada. To help address the upcoming labour market shortage the federal and provincial governments signed the Canada-British Columbia Immigration Agreement, which provides the framework for managing immigration activities, such as provincial nominees, international students, sponsorship, immigration health issues and temporary foreign workers.

The Provincial Nominee Program is a good example of how we are bringing in talented people from around the world to help our economy grow. Sparkling Hills, a new, one-of-a-kind \$122 million spa and resort in Vernon, with crystal fireplaces and a minus 110-degree cold therapy spa, is just one of its success stories.

The result of the vision of Austrian immigrant Hans Peter Mayr, construction created 350 local jobs on the site, and about 130 long-term jobs have been created to operate the resort. Since the business category was introduced in 2002, up to March 2010, over 570 nominee candidates have been approved committing over \$600 million in new investment and creating 2,550 new jobs.

There will also be a need to more fully-engage traditionally under-represented groups to meet projected labour market shortages. That is why the Province is investing almost \$4 million in the Aboriginal Training for Employment Program, that will train over 600 Aboriginal people in over 60 communities across British Columbia to create new opportunities in skilled, well-paying jobs.

Approximately \$1 million more in new funding was also provided through the Industry Training Authority to support First Nations' trades training in heavy equipment operation and building maintenance, as well as a unique Aboriginal women in trades program.

## The Green Economy

The Province is a leader in the development of a green economy. We are supporting innovations in technologies, products, manufacturing processes and building the foundation for the positive systemic changes required in a sustainable society.

New green jobs are being created and cleaner technology is being used, whether it is a new district energy system at Simon Fraser University, or new technology in our natural gas sector. The University of Northern British Columbia opened a Bioenergy Plant that uses innovative technology to convert bark, branches, sawdust and other leftover wood products from nearby mills into a highly efficient means to heat campus buildings. It is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the university by an amount equivalent to taking 1,000 cars off the road every year.

In the forest industry, burning waste wood products creates heat for drying kilns and produces steam and electricity to meet their needs or to sell. Over 800 megawatts of biomass electricity capacity is installed in B.C., enough to power 640,000 households. In 2010, the B.C. wood pellet industry increased its production from 1 million tonnes to 1.2 million tonnes of wood pellets, of which 90 per cent was exported for thermal power production overseas. The Province is supporting the expansion of a wood bioenergy sector with investment, innovation and partnerships.



Parks are an important part of a green economy. When families get out into the wild to enjoy the incredible splendour found in every corner of British Columbia, it reinvigorates their appreciation of the need for responsible and sustainable resource management of the province. To make it easier for all families to enjoy parks, the Province also made parking free in all B.C. Parks.

Also, as part of BC Parks 100 celebrations, the Ministry of Environment re-enacted the original 1910 expedition that led to the establishment of Strathcona Provincial Park—B.C.'s first provincial park—and celebrated its 100th birthday.

The Province also established eight new "Class A" provincial parks and one new conservancy, and added land to 13 existing provincial parks encompassing more than 27,500 hectares. Since 2001, the B.C. government has established 65 new parks, 144 conservancies, two ecological reserves and nine protected areas, and expanded more than 60 parks and six ecological reserves, protecting more than 1.9 million hectares of additional land.

By continuing to responsibly develop our province's natural resources, British Columbia is poised to become a global energy powerhouse. From clean, green hydro, wind and biomass power to world-class natural gas resources, our province's advantages promise an exciting future as a reliable supplier of energy products and services to international markets and climate-conscious consumers.



# Putting Families First

## Healthy Living

LIVING AN ACTIVE, HEALTHY LIFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT to British Columbians. The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) released by Statistics Canada in 2010 showed that B.C. continues to lead in many healthy living categories compared to other jurisdictions, re-affirming the province as the healthiest population in Canada. The 2009 Canadian Community Health Survey shows that:

- *B.C. has the lowest smoking rate in Canada at 16 per cent.*
- *British Columbians rank second in Canada for fruit and vegetable consumption (five or more servings per day) at 45.7 per cent.*
- *British Columbians (ages 12 and over) have the highest physical activity rates in Canada at 60.3 per cent.*
- *British Columbians have the lowest self-reported obesity rates in Canada at 45.1 per cent.*
- *B.C. ranked second among provinces for functional health at 82.7 per cent. (Functional health measures eight categories, including hearing, vision, communicating, mobility, dexterity, pain, cognition and emotion.)*



While this is an achievement to be proud of, the Province has also been working to improve health outcomes for British Columbians.



British Columbia has launched the most comprehensive health care promotion program in Canada—the Healthy Families BC strategy. This strategy will support British Columbians in managing their own health, reducing chronic disease and ensuring that pregnancy and support programs target the province's most vulnerable families.

Starting in September 2011, smoking cessation products will be available to all British Columbian smokers at no cost and smoking cessation prescription drugs will be covered under PharmaCare.

Hospital care is the most resource-intensive method of care in our health system. In 2010/11, we continued to target resources where they have the greatest impact on patients. The Province is investing an additional \$250 million over two years through the expansion of its patient-focused funding model.

This model was implemented in the 23 largest hospitals across the province, helping to ease emergency department congestion, reduce patient wait times and improve access to services across the health care spectrum.

Results of the pilot projects of the model found there was better management of resources and dollars by hospitals and health authorities—and most importantly, more timely quality care for patients. For example, shorter wait times for breast cancer diagnosis and spinal surgery, increased hip- and knee-replacement surgeries and being seen faster in emergency departments to aid decongestion.

New funding and new approaches to managing the health care system, are building on successes already achieved, such as B.C.'s scoring an "A" on wait times for hip and knee joint replacement, cancer care, cataract surgery and cardiac care (from the Wait Time Alliance, comprised of 14 national medical societies and associations, such as the Canadian Medical Association).

## Education and Literacy



B.C. school districts received \$4.663 billion in operating grants in 2010/11, a \$112 million increase over the previous fiscal year. The increase to operating funding includes \$54 million to fully fund the teachers' wage settlement and \$58 million to support the implementation of full day kindergarten. The funding amount has increased by an estimated \$2,039 per-pupil since 2000/01.

As well, Provincial funding for Aboriginal education in the B.C. public K-12 school system increased from \$52.6 million to \$61.5 million for the 2010/11 school year. This funding enables school districts to deliver enhanced education programs and services for Aboriginal students who self identify as being of Aboriginal ancestry.

As well, many local school districts have entered into education enhancement agreements with local Aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education to enhance the educational achievement of Aboriginal students. These agreements establish collaborative partnerships involving shared decision-making and specific goal setting to meet the educational needs of Aboriginal students. As of January 2011, there were 51 school districts with Aboriginal education enhancement agreements, while another nine are in either the planning or draft stage.

Research has shown that high quality, play-based early childhood learning programs develop the academic and social skills that help children succeed in school and in life. In support of this, the Province funds 316 StrongStart BC early learning programs throughout British Columbia and is opening another 10 programs in September 2011.

Adding to this strong foundation is the government's Child Care Subsidy program. This provides assistance with the cost of child care to low and moderate income families to ensure a range of affordable, safe, and quality child care options. Through this program, the Province provides child care subsidies to over 35,000 families and serves over 50,000 children each year.

This year, voluntary full-day kindergarten for five-year-olds was introduced, and full implementation will be in all schools by September 2011. During this transition year, 50 per cent of five-year-olds had access to full day kindergarten. In support of this, the Province is investing over \$144 million as part of a six-step action plan to provide 665 new classrooms for approximately 40,000 students expected in September 2011 when the program is fully implemented. This is in addition to a three-year \$280 million commitment to implement full-day kindergarten for all eligible children by September.

## Community Development and Safety

### SUPPORTING LOCAL SERVICES

The Province initially budgeted \$120 million for community gaming grants in 2010/11. On top of that amount an additional \$15 million in grant funding was announced by Premier Christy Clark for community groups to go towards programs that support healthier children, stronger families and more vibrant communities. For many groups in the health and social services sector—such as transition houses, food banks and drop-in centres—the funding will provide an extra 25 per cent over and above funding which was already at 100 per cent of historical levels.

The additional funding brings the total community gaming grant funding that approximately 6,000 community organizations will share in 2010/11 to \$135 million. This represents a 12.5 per cent increase from the previous year's total.

### SUPPORTING SOCIAL HOUSING

The Province continues to improve the lives of British Columbians by providing safe, affordable housing options—from supportive housing for those who are homeless to affordable rentals for individuals, seniors and families with lower incomes. In 2010/11, B.C.'s budget for social housing was about \$562 million, more than four times as much as in 2001. More than 93,000 B.C. residents benefit from provincial housing programs and our strong partnerships with local governments and community organizations continue to help increase the available housing options in B.C.

Over \$2.3 million was invested for the capital costs associated with the construction of 33 affordable Seniors Rental Housing, as part of the Remy housing development in Richmond. The Remy is a 188-unit housing development for low-income seniors, singles and families that also includes market-rate apartments and a daycare.



Housing investments in support of women and children who are homeless, fleeing domestic abuse or in need of supportive recovery made by the B.C. government included:

- *\$4.4 million to redevelop Moresby Townhouses in Prince Rupert into 23 apartments of second-stage transition housing;*
- *Opening the first phase of the \$17.9 million Maxine Wright Centre in Surrey for at-risk pregnant women;*
- *Completing a housing agreement with the City of Campbell River to provide \$6 million to construct a new supportive housing building with 30 units for women and children dealing with abuse and violence.*

The Province's increased focus on keeping families together, when it is safe and possible to do so, is resulting in fewer children and youth in care. Currently, there are approximately 8,400 children and youth in government care in British Columbia, about 1,800 fewer than in 2001 (an 18 per cent decline). Because of our new focus on increased collaborative practices such as mediation, family group conferences, family case planning conferences, out of care placements and family development response, more children and youth are remaining with their family and/or extended family — which is always the ultimate goal.

The government also appointed a new Provincial Director of Child Welfare. Acting on a recommendation of the Representative for Children and Youth, the Provincial Director will provide greater accountability and improve child protection practice.

The Province continues to take domestic violence very seriously. The government's Domestic Violence Action Plan provides greater integration, co-ordination, collaboration and training to service providers to better meet the needs of families, women and children in British Columbia.

Through the Domestic Violence Action Plan, the Province established a new Domestic Violence Unit in the Capital Regional District. While the Unit is based on the model in place in Vancouver and New Westminster, it is the first such unit in the province to unite police agencies from a number of different jurisdictions and include victim services and child welfare protection in one location.

The Province has also been partnering with local government and not-for-profit foundations to provide more than 1,000 new supportive-housing units in Vancouver. Providing permanent housing with appropriate social supports is going to improve the quality of life for those on the street, or at a risk of becoming homeless, and is a key component in the long term process of breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Cypress Lodge, a \$9.4 million, 20-bed mental health rehabilitation facility, was also opened in 2010. It provides mental-health care for individuals who need more intensive psychological rehabilitation than is available in existing mental-health rehab services.

## REDUCING GANG-RELATED CRIME

The Province has achieved considerable success working with the federal government and provincial and territorial partners on organized crime and gang issues. New offences are now in force or will soon be coming into force to:

- *Address auto theft and trafficking in property obtained by crime,*
- *Address the illicit production and trafficking of synthetic drugs, and*
- *Include tougher sentencing for the trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen.*

The government also prohibited vehicles with "aftermarket" hidden compartments and the operation of an armoured vehicle without a permit, as part of our plan to combat gang and gun violence.

The Province has also been successful in working with federal, provincial and territorial partners to introduce legislation that improves public safety, such as equipping law enforcement agencies with new investigative tools to address organized crime and terrorism activities online, and improving criminal trials by strengthening case management, reducing duplication of processes, and enhancing criminal procedure.



Through civil forfeiture the Province continued to recover profits criminals make from illicit activities. These recovered profits have grown from \$600,000 annually in 2006 to more than \$4 million in 2010. Recovery of these proceeds from the criminal economy adversely impacts and deters criminal enterprises—in particular, organized crime—by targeting the economic drivers of crime. Proceeds recovered under the Civil Forfeiture Act are used to fund the Civil Forfeiture Office, further enhancing the Office's capabilities.

# Open Government

**TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT STAND STILL** while government tries to figure out how to deal with growing demands for improved access, not just to services but to participate more fully in the development of public policy and programs. As a result, the B.C. government is changing how it interacts with the public. We're talking with citizens more often about the issues that affect them. Sometimes we're working directly with the public towards solutions. Other times we're inviting the public to take the lead on the issues that matter to them the most.

In support of open government, the Open Information and Open Data Policy provides direction on the proactive and routine release of government information and the assessment, approval and posting of open data for public use. In 2010/11, we improved the timeliness of our Freedom of Information responses, releasing 93 per cent within deadline—up from 90 per cent the previous year. We continued to inform citizens about government policies, programs and services in an open and transparent manner.

In 2010/11, as part of the Open Data initiative, the Ministry of Children and Family Development made a wide variety of information available in a downloadable format, including data on performance measures and the number of children in care in B.C. Making these data available and increasing public reporting on performance supports a stronger quality assurance system and makes the government's business more transparent to British Columbians.

We have also taken some steps to give people the opportunity to have their voices heard, allowing them to influence and improve policies that affect them. We are using new technologies to better reach out to the public to gather opinions and new ideas. Specifically, the government recently unveiled *Citizens @ the Centre, BC Government 2.0*, a strategy to make data more accessible to the public, modernize services for citizens and engage the public through social media tools.

In 2010/11, *BC Wildfire Management* used Social Media (*Facebook* and *Twitter*) for the first time to communicate and provide updates to the public.

Between December 2010 and February 2011, senior staff in the Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government engaged in a dialogue with stakeholder groups, organizations representing employees and employers, and with academic experts to discuss how B.C.'s employment standards could be modernized to reflect the needs of the 21st century workplace. More than 30 stakeholder groups provided valuable perspectives and ideas that will help inform government action on the future of Employment Standards policy, regulation and legislation.

In 2010, the B.C. government ran the *Apps 4 Climate Action* contest. The contest challenged Canadian programmers to use climate data to create innovative web and mobile apps that would raise awareness of climate change and also inspire action. The *Apps 4 Climate Action* contest won a *silver award* in the 2010 national Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC)/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Awards.

On January 20, 2011 the government launched *JusticeBC*, a joint project of the ministries of the Attorney General, Public Safety and Solicitor General, and Children and Family Development. *JusticeBC* brings into one web portal more than 300 pages of information about the criminal justice system, as well as links to other resources and services, and has been designed to help people find what they need as quickly and easily as possible.

Over the past decade, the Province has made significant progress in helping expand internet service to B.C.'s rural and remote communities. Today, 93 per cent of British Columbians have access to high-speed internet making B.C. one of the most connected jurisdictions in the world.

Access to the Internet connects families to the services they need and businesses to global markets they could not reach before. Over the past three years, the Province funded almost 150 connectivity projects to bring high-speed internet services to over 210 new locations. In 2010/11, the Connecting Citizens Grant Program provided up to \$235 million to support 51 projects, expanding broadband connectivity to over 60 locales.



# Performance Measures

	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
<b>School Readiness</b> <b>Percentage of kindergarten students entering school "ready to learn"</b>	70.4% (2005/06 to 2007/08) <sup>1</sup>	71.4% <sup>2</sup>	85%
<b>Student Literacy</b> <b>Program for International Student Assessment Ranking</b>	2nd in Canada, 3rd internationally	Tied for 1st in Canada <sup>3</sup> , 4th internationally (measured every 3rd year)	1st in Canada, improve internationally
<b>High School Graduation</b>	79% (04/05)	79.7% (2009)	85%
<b>Post-secondary completion</b>	56% (2004), Canadian average 57%	60.7% (2010), Canadian average 62.5%	Exceed Canadian average
<b>Life Expectancy at birth</b>	81 yrs (2004)	81.7 Highest in Canada (2010)	>81 yrs
<b>Physical activity of British Columbians</b> <b>Per cent getting over 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day</b>	58.1% (2003)	60.3% (age 12+) Highest in Canada (2009)	73%
<b>British Columbians who are overweight</b>	42.3% Lowest % in Canada (2003)	45.1% (age 18+) Lowest In Canada (2009)	32%
<b>Tobacco use</b>	15% Lowest % in Canada (2003)	14.9% (age 15+) Lowest in Canada (2009)	13%
<b>Disabled British Columbians who are working</b>	52% <sup>4</sup> (2001), Canadian 41.5%	56.5% (2005/06 most recent data available)	62%
<b>Disadvantaged children in age appropriate grade</b>	86% (2005)	86.1% (2010)	95%
<b>Per cent of British Columbia seniors living in institutions</b> <b>(Seniors 75 or older in health care or related facilities)</b>	10.3% (2001) 2nd lowest in Canada	10% (2006) lowest in Canada	Maintain Canadian 2nd place rank
<b>Average fine particulate concentration in major metropolitan areas</b>	Vancouver is 2nd lowest in Canada (2004)	Vancouver is lowest in Canada (2009)	Lowest in Canada
<b>Province-wide greenhouse gas emissions (millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)</b>	68.0 (2007 baseline)	66.8 (2009)	6% below 2007 levels by 2012, 18% by 2016, and 33% by 2020
<b>Water quality</b> <b>Per cent of 30 B.C. water bodies with stable or improving trends</b>	96% (04/05)	96% (09/10)	>96%
<b>Number of new jobs per capita</b>	1st (2005)	4th (2010)	1st

<sup>1</sup> Prior to 2008/09, data was collected in waves over three year intervals by the Human Early Learning Partnership.

<sup>2</sup> Since not all school districts participated in EDI data collection in 2009, the forecasts and targets are provided in two year waves.

<sup>3</sup> Results are presented according to statistical significance. In the 2009 assessment reported here, there was no statistical difference among the performances of B.C., Ontario and Alberta.  
<sup>4</sup> Baseline changed due to change in data collection method.



Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan Annual Report

